



**Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi**  
**One-Minute Speech**  
**Health Care Reform**  
*November 3, 2009*

Mr. Speaker: I rise in strong support of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. This bill lives up to its name.

Most importantly from my perspective, this bill does justice to the 4.4 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories. Too often in the past, the territories have been treated as an afterthought in important legislation. Thanks to the efforts of leadership, that is not the case with this bill. While the legislation is not perfect, it constitutes a giant step forward.

The bill addresses the unprincipled funding disparities that the territories have always faced under Medicaid. It also provides funding to enable Americans of modest means residing in the territories to purchase subsidized coverage through the health insurance exchange. And it makes my constituents eligible for the worthy consumer protections established in the bill. I hope the Senate will follow the House's lead, and I will continue to work with our allies in that chamber to ensure that their bill treats American citizens in the territories in a fair and just manner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

